Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-02 SCS-03 PER-01 /088 W

-----070937Z 097842 /20

R 070815Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4444

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

CONFIDENTIAL ASMARA 0283

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: ELF AND PLF ATTACKS

REF: KHARTOUM 1135 (NOTAL)

- 1. ACCORDING TO WELL-INFORMED SOURCES IN ASMARA, TESSENAY HAS BEEN HEAVILY-INVESTED BY ELF FORCES. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHAT POSITIONS ARE STILL HELD BY EPMG TROOPS, BUT THE TOWN ITSELF SEEMS TO BE IN THE HANDS OF THE INSURGENTS, WITH EPMG TROOPS IN A DEFENSIVE POSTURE NEARBY.
- 2. NORMALLY SCHEDULED FLIGHTS TO BARENTU, ABOUT 120 KMS DUE EAST OF TESSENAY, WERE CANCELLED ON APRIL 6, SUGGESTING THAT INSURGENT PRESSURE MAY BE EXPECTED AT THAT SPOT, TOO.

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- 3. AFABET, A SMALL TOWN ABOUT 75 KMS SOUTHEAST OF NACFA, IS UNDER PLF SIEGE, APPARENTLY THE SAME GROUP THAT OCCUPIED NACFA LAST MONTH.
- 4. COMMENT: THERE IS STILL NO HARD EVIDENCE OF ELF/PLF COOPERATION, BUT WITH SIZEABLE ASSAULTS IN EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS THEY ARE STRAINING SECOND DIVISION RESOURCES TO SUCCOR THE BELEAGUERED

UNITS. TESSENAY AND AFABET CAN ONLY BE REACHED BY AIR. SLUTZ	
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NNN

Message Attributes

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